

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending rejection of this application as examined pursuant to the office action of March 12, 2007. Pursuant to the present amendment, Claims 1, 4, 6-8, 10, 12-13, 17, 20, 27-28 and 63 are pending.

The pending office action cited US Patent No. 7,125,421 issued to Tremulis and published US application Publication No. 2006/0247492 to Streeter. Applicant respectfully suggests that the amendments made to the pending claims overcome the cited references.

Applicant has taken this opportunity to amend elected independent Claims 1 and 63 of the application pending for consideration. Each of these claims was amended to make clear that the restraining component of the implantable device extends across the interior of the ring such that it establishes a string-like netting extending across the line of coaptation. This modification is clearly supported by the specification. The independent claims were also amended to note that the ring includes commissural marks and that the restraining structure is flexible. This modification is also clearly supported by the specification.

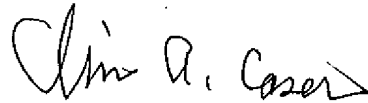
Applicant respectfully suggests that the amendments made distinguish the present invention from the cited references. Specifically, Tremulis fails to teach a restraining structure that extends across the interior of the ring and that establishes a string-like netting across the line of coaptation. Tremulis also fails to teach the application of commissural marks to divide a ring into two segments.. The Streeter reference fails to teach a flexible restraining structure that provides the establishment of a string-like netting across the line of coaptation. In particular, Streeter illustrates a single figure showing a ring with restrains, but all indications in that reference are to the use of a rigid material in forming the ring. The Streeter device would be ineffective in limiting prolapse movement in a way suitable for the heart to function as desired. Streeter also fails to teach the application of commissural marks to divide the ring into two segments.

The Applicant respectfully suggests that neither of the cited references Tremulis and Streeter describes the present invention as disclosed by the presently pending claims. Therefore, the rejection of Claims 1, 4, 6-8, 10, 12-13, 17, 20, 27-28 and 63 has been successfully traversed. Withdrawal of the rejection of those claims is therefore requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments made to independent Claims 1 and 63 and the remarks made herein, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450 on October 31, 2007, using the Electronic Filing System-Web. Please assign a filing date of October 31, 2007, to this submission.

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